



Passenger Rail Priorities Program

Powered by the Hillsborough TPO

Pilot Program Application Training

November 7, 2023

Agenda

01. Introduction &
Training Session
Goals

02. Program
Purpose & Process
Overview

03. Roles &
Responsibilities

04. Application
Demonstration

05. Schedule &
Closing Remarks



Participation


We encourage participation throughout the workshop!

Click, Reactions 
Then click Raise Hand  **or,**
Type questions into the Chat or Q&A 


Introduction


Training Session Goals

1. Understand the purpose and process of the Passenger Rail Priorities Program (PRPP)
2. Cover project eligibility
3. Learn how to submit an Application
4. Understand what assistance is available
5. Note important dates in the Program Schedule

Departures  CURRENT TIME: 12:30 PM

Southbound

DEPARTS	DESTINATION	TRACK	
12:54 PM	WPB / FTL / AVE / MIA	1	 On Time
1:54 PM	WPB / BOC / FTL / AVE / MIA	2	On Time
2:54 PM	WPB / FTL / AVE / MIA	2	On Time
3:54 PM	WPB / FTL / AVE / MIA	2	On Time
4:54 PM	WPB / BOC / FTL / AVE / MIA	2	On Time
6:54 PM	WPB / FTL / AVE / MIA	2	On Time
8:54 PM	WPB / BOC / FTL / AVE / MIA	2	On Time
End of Daily Services			

 brightline

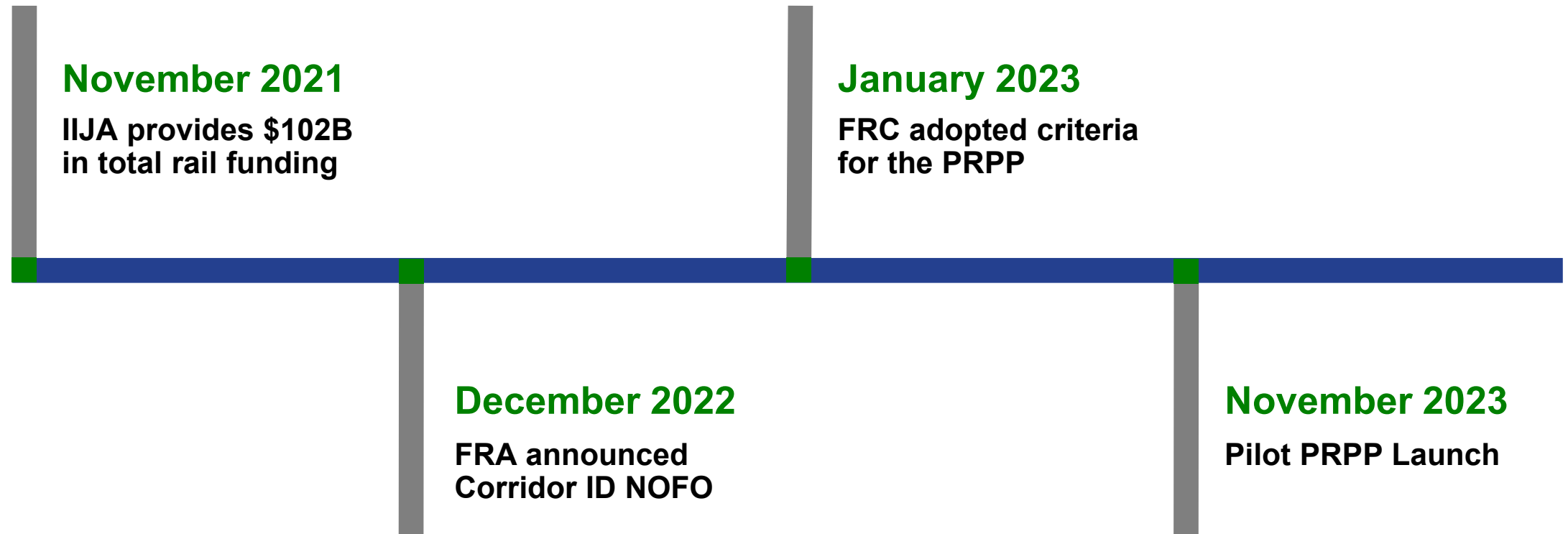
Our Purpose

Provides MPOs an opportunity to share **local priorities** for advancing **intercity passenger rail** projects





Recent Events





**PRPP will amplify
MPO-led planning
efforts as FDOT
pursues Federal
funding
opportunities**

FDOT Efforts to Date

- December 2022**
Florida System Rail Plan
- January 2023**
FDOT Passenger Rail
Corridor Assessment
- March 2023**
FDOT submits Tier 1
Corridors to FRA
- November 2023**
FRA has yet to announce
Corridor ID Selections



What Funding Sources are Available?

Florida Rail Enterprise - \$60 million in annual state funds to support operations, maintenance, and rail systems planning.

Federal Railroad Administration – oversees federal discretionary grant programs to fund corridor development, service plans, and capital projects.

Amtrak – receives federally appropriated funds administered annually by FRA to support capital projects, maintenance activities, debt service payments, and operating expenses on the national network.

Process Overview



Identify Projects

Must meet eligibility requirements



Submit Projects

MPOs can complete Word-based applications



Provide Support

Follow-ups with MPO submittals



Create Project List

Project list presented to the MPOAC for approval



Project Types



Enhance Existing Services



Restore Former Services



Develop New Services



Project Eligibility



Documented in an Existing Transportation Plan or Study



Connects at least two major metropolitan areas



Has Support from Railroad Owners & Operators



Includes Total Project Cost and Funding Request



Identifies Operations & Maintenance Financial Support

Roles & Responsibilities

Participants and Contributions

MPOAC

- Program sponsor & guides program
- Approves Project List
- Transmits List to FDOT
- Initiates project changes

MPOs

- Members of the MPOAC and FRC
- Submit project applications
- Use the List to advocate for projects
- Provide program feedback

PASSENGER RAIL PRIORITIES PROGRAM

powered by the Hillsborough TPO

Consultant Team

- Develops & administers program
- Provides training
- Reviews applications
- Creates Project List
- Implements program changes

FDOT

- Supports MPO applications
- Considers List when prioritizing projects and making funding decisions
- Provides program feedback

Application Demonstration

General Project Information

- Contact Information
- Describe the project, its purpose and need
- Define its location
- Total project costs (estimates) and request
- Other MPO coordination

PASSENGER RAIL PRIORITIES PROGRAM PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION	
Project Name:	
Project Sponsor:	
Sponsoring MPO:	
FDOT Coordinator:	
Project Description:	
Purpose and Need Statement:	
Project Type (Select One):	Choose an item.
Passenger Rail Service Type (Select One):	Choose an item.
Define the Project Limits (e.g., area, corridor, grade crossing, milepost, etc.):	
List the Counties involved in the Project:	
Provide a Map showing the location of the Project (URL/Link):	
Total Estimated Project Costs:	
Total Estimated Unfunded Costs:	
Total Requested Amount:	
List any other MPOs involved in the Project:	

Application Demonstration

General Project Information

- Private partners in support of the project
- Was the project previously identified?
- Is the project a plan or study?
- Is the project on an FDOT-identified corridor?
- Was the project a part of any previous Federal Grant applications?

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION	
List any Private Partners (e.g., railroads, private companies, public authorities involved in transportation, other municipal jurisdictions, etc.) involved in the Project:	
Is this Project identified in an Existing Transportation Plan or Study? (Choose all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> FDOT State Rail Plan <input type="checkbox"/> FDOT SIS Plan <input type="checkbox"/> MPO Transportation Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Amtrak Plan/Study <input type="checkbox"/> Transit Development Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other Transportation Plan/Study <input type="checkbox"/> No, Requesting Funds for a Plan/Study
Is the Project Related to an Existing State Rail Plan Corridor (Choose all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Miami – Orlando <input type="checkbox"/> Orlando – Tampa <input type="checkbox"/> Miami – Tampa <input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville – Orlando <input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville – Miami <input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville – Mobile – New Orleans <input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville – Macon – Atlanta <input type="checkbox"/> Amtrak Long-Distance (Silver Meteor) <input type="checkbox"/> Amtrak Long-Distance (Silver Star) <input type="checkbox"/> Amtrak Long-Distance (Auto Train) <input type="checkbox"/> Orlando – Gainesville <input type="checkbox"/> Miami – Naples – Tampa <input type="checkbox"/> Undefined, Potential New Corridor
List any previous Federal Grant Applications submitted on behalf of this Project:	

Application Demonstration

Project Screening

- Select applicable eligibility criteria
- Identify project elements
- Provide links to previous plans or studies
- Secure public support
- Are there eligible sources of funds?
- Is there a sponsor for operations and maintenance?

PROJECT SCREENING	
Eligibility Criteria: (Select all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Documented in an Existing Transportation Plan or Study <input type="checkbox"/> Connects at least two Major Metropolitan Areas <input type="checkbox"/> Has Support from Railroad Owners and Operators <input type="checkbox"/> Includes Total Project Cost and Funding Request <input type="checkbox"/> Identifies Operations & Maintenance Financial Support
Project Elements (Select all that apply based on Project Type):	
<u>Enhance Former Services</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Accessibility <input type="checkbox"/> Connectivity <input type="checkbox"/> Efficiency <input type="checkbox"/> Frequency <input type="checkbox"/> Reliability <input type="checkbox"/> Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Technology	<u>Restore Former Services</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Passenger Service on a current Freight Line <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinued Amtrak Service <input type="checkbox"/> Former Railroad ROW for Passenger Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Reopen a Station
<u>Develop New Services</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Corridor <input type="checkbox"/> Station <input type="checkbox"/> Rolling Stock <input type="checkbox"/> Safety Improvements	
Upload a Link to any previous Plans or Studies that identify the Project (URL/Link):	
Upload Letters of Support for the Project (URL/Link):	
Identify Potential Applicable Funding Sources (Select all that apply):	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public Financing <input type="checkbox"/> Private Funds <input type="checkbox"/> Private Financing
Does the Project have a Financial Sponsor committed to Operations & Maintenance?	Choose an item.
Define the Action Requesting Financial Support:	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction for Safety Improvement <input type="checkbox"/> Construction for New Track/Restored Track

Application Demonstration

Project Screening

- What is the requested action?
- How does the project relate to State Rail Plan goals?
- Provide a brief statement relating the project to the goals of the State Rail Plan

PROJECT SCREENING	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction for New Station/Existing Station Improvements <input type="checkbox"/> Passenger Rail Corridor Feasibility Study <input type="checkbox"/> Passenger Rail Service Plan <input type="checkbox"/> PD&E <input type="checkbox"/> PE <input type="checkbox"/> ROW Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Rolling Stock Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Scope of Work <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Describe):
Identify the Florida State Rail Plans goal(s) supported by the Project: (Select all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety and Security for all Residents, Visitors, and Businesses <input type="checkbox"/> Agile, Resilient, and Quality Transportation Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> Connected, Efficient, and Reliable Mobility for People and Freight <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Choices that Improve Accessibility and Equity <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Solutions that Strengthen Florida's Economy <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Systems that Enhance Florida's Communities <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Solutions that Enhance Florida's Environment
Provide a Brief Statement explaining how the Project supports the State Rail Plan goal(s):	

Schedule & Closing Remarks



Application window November 8, 2023 – December 8, 2023



Processing and follow-ups December 11, 2023 – January 12, 2024



Initial PRPP projects list and lessons learned presentation January 25, 2024



Online web portal development for future application cycles – Spring 2024



2nd PRPP Application Cycle window opens – Fall 2024



Questions?

Nicholas Torres

Whitehouse Group
ntorres@whitehousegroup.com
754-701-1616